UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
DEPT.

APPROVAL OF UNDP/UNCDF ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

IPF:(1992-96) $ 27 000 000
(CAF/91/C01)-(CAF/91/002) - Support to Rural Self-help Development Activities

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	2 September 1992
Expected duration:	54 months
Proposed executing agency:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Community Development
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 168 800 Source of funds: IPF
Proposed UNCDF contribution:	$1 098 800 Source of funds:General Resources
Government cost sharing:	$ 455 800

Project background

Much of rural society in Central African Republic remains outside the modern monetised economy; and a basic element in the country's rural sector strategy involves integrating rural populations into the modern sector as both producers and consumers. The Government's objectives in the rural sector emphasize, the promotion of productive activities, improvement of health conditions and strengthening of rural capacity for self-development.

In 1983, UNCDF and UNDP initiated a joint project whose objectives were to strengthen Community Development Institutions, training and field interventions. This was followed in 1986, by a successor project (CAF/82/C06 - CAF/86/008) which gave particular importance to assisting rural communities in meeting priority needs. The project focused on creating village self-help activities on the basis of the people's participation in the following domains: promotion of income generating activities; improvement of agriculture and stock farming activities; housing and environment; as well as the strengthening of the Government's Social Affairs Department. An independent evaluation in December 1990), while noting the positive impact and the proven financial viability of the project activities initiated, recommended a continuation of the assistance. It seeks to: (1) consolidate achievements; (2) strengthen the following actions which did not receive the requisite attention: (a) promotion of women's activities and also primary health actions; (b) savings and credit based on income generated by communities' socio-economic activities.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) create 100 new self-development and self-supporting activities at the community level; (b) attach 34 pharmacies with, and 11 pharmacies without health post; (c) establish 40 shops selling goods in everyday use,

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[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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10 warehouses for construction materials, four mills for grinding cassava and millet and a pharmaceutical supply centre at Alindao, covering the Basse-Kotto prefecture; (d) utilize resources generated by those activities to finance other community level activities, grant loans to individuals and create about 240 productive jobs for running the new activities; (e) render Village Development Committees (CVD) that have been assisted by the previous project (51 CVDs operating 53 community level activities) completely independent of the project so as to continue to operate profitably the original activities and finance additional activities without further assistance; (f) enable rural women to benefit by the creation of income generating activities (at community or individual level) such as soap manufacturing, vegetable oil production, market gardening, small animal raising, etc.; and (g) execute the project in the same two prefectures as the project (CAF/82/C06) - (CAF/86/008) Ouham and Basse-Kotto covering all nine sub-prefectures, instead of just seven in the past. By adding 100 to the existing 54 community-level activities, the project is expected to benefit directly a considerably larger number of people.

The methodology will be the same as in the past; action-training-monitoring. A concrete and directly relevant action related to the improvement of health or living conditions, or to reducing fatigue caused by poor working conditions, especially among women, will act as a focus of self-development work. Training will be provided to ensure that the direct beneficiaries eventually take over running the activity and are capable to plan and undertake further activities by themselves. For a certain period, the project will monitor developments while withdrawing gradually from all direct involvement.

The project will have three main components: (1) implementation of self-development activities; (2) support to activities specifically designed to benefit women; and (3) support to saving and loan schemes.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a CTA (24 man-months), two UNVs (96 man-months), a national expert, national support staff; training; subcontracts and consultants to reinforce the national team following withdrawal of the CTA. UNCDF will supply building materials and other equipment, O and M, local skilled labour, working capital for credit activities. The Government will provide a national director, 35 Community Development agents/officers and premises and part of the O and M costs. Beneficiaries will provide labour, local construction materials and start-up capital.

Financial data

	Government	Pop.	UNDP	UNCDF
Personnel	317 600	-	493 900	-
Training	-	-	268 800	-
Consultancies/Subcontracts	-	-	137 500	100 000
Equipment(expendable)	-	-	58 000	49 000
Equipment(non-expendable)	-	-	31 000	21 000
Construction materials	-	213 500	-	379 500
Revolving Fund	-	110 400	-	130 000
Vehicles	-	-	-	48 600
Missions(Eval. Form.Supervision)	-	-	128 000	60 000
O & M	70 000	-	5 600	216 000
Support Costs,Cont. premises	68 200	-	46 000	94 600
Total	455 800	323 900	1 168 800	1 098 800

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